



MOUNTAIN CLIMBER



Volume I, Issue I2

FORT DRUM

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FORT DRUM EDUCATION CENTER

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On the Education Services Officer's Desk

The
Army Education
Center
at the
McEwen Library and
Education Complex

Hours of Operation

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, and Friday

0900-1600

Wednesday

1245-1600

(315) 772-6878



The Fort Drum
Education Center
Mountain Climber

Garrison Commander
COL Emory R. Helton

Director, Directorate
of Plans,
Training and
Mobilization
Marlyn T. Sears

Education Services
Officer
Carla K. Ortiz

Editor
Joseph A. Agresti

Cover Art
Reggie Cullen

The Education Center has now published eleven editions of the "Mountain Climber", the twelfth edition with this issue. We feel that this endeavor is important to keep the soldiers, family members and DoD civilians on Fort Drum informed about educational items as they surface. We are proud of the product that has resulted; a professional and polished publication that we have gladly shared with other installation education centers and various staff within the Army Continuing Education System circle.

As a newly arrived Education Services Officer at Fort Drum in January 2001, one of the first deficiencies noted was a lack of marketing initiatives. While our counselors do an excellent job of keeping assigned units informed of educationally newsworthy items, family members and DoD civilians were often left out of the loop. The Education Center staffers put our heads together and brainstormed ways to get the word out and keep the Fort Drum community current on our offerings. We have increased input to the Mountaineer, Fort



Drum's newsletter distributed through the Intranet. Family members new to Fort Drum now receive information about the Education Center in the Welcome Packets provided through Army Community Service. Soldiers, family members and DoD civilians may also access information concerning Education Center services and programs through flyers and brochures provided at the Education Center, inprocessing briefings at Clark Hall, flyers that are distributed through email advertising special events such as the Financial Aid Fair on 8 May 2003, through various articles written for the Blizzard, and advertising through the electronic marquis as one enters the main gate.

However, we still lacked a highly visible vehicle to educate the community about our most recent endeavors, to provide information about the vast number of

changes occurring in Education Center services and programs and to encourage participation in these services and programs. We modeled our insert after "The Preview", a publication that is much used in the Fort Drum community, and thus, the "Mountain Climber" was born.

We have attempted to impart valuable information and wisdom, gained from much experience in the field, to our readers, centering each edition of the "Mountain Climber" on a particular theme. This edition of the "Mountain Climber" highlights general issues in education that affect most of us in the military community. We welcome suggestions from our readers concerning desired topics in future issues. Suggestions may be dropped off at the McEwen Education Center, Bldg. P4300, Camp Hale Rd., next to the Pine Plains Gym, or may be relayed by phone to Joe Agresti at 772-6882.

Carla K. Ortiz
Education Services Officer



A View from an Overseas Ed Center

Mary Anne Hamel is currently serving as the Education Services Specialist at Camp McGovern, supporting Operation Joint Forge. Since her arrival in July of 2002, she has dealt with soldiers from both the Active and Reserve Components in 3 rotations of the SFOR. In October, Mary Anne will return to her duties at the Education Center.

Hooahhhh

One of the most frequently asked questions I get as a counselor in the Balkans is, "Will this class transfer back to my school?" Good question and the only one who can answer that is your college. However, if you find out you are coming overseas, here are some pointers to help you transition.

Once you know where you'll be stationed, stop by the Ed Center and see if you can find an email address for an education center at your new installation or post. Write to that contact for information on schools, technology, testing capabilities, etc. Try and get an idea of the typical classes offered. Are they career/vocational in nature? Are they lower-level general education classes or are many upper-level classes needed for a bachelor's degree?

Once you know which colleges offer which classes, check with your college you are earning your degree from to see if they will accept the courses. Most colleges have websites you can visit to find course descriptions. Your college will need these descriptions in order to decide on

transferability of credit. Also, many colleges will not accept credit from other than a regionally accredited institution.

Try to request an unofficial copy of all your college credits. You'll only need an official copy if you will be changing your college to obtain your degree. You'll be able to request AARTS overseas via the web, but if you have prior service you may want to request your SMART transcript or Community College of the Air Force transcript, if appropriate.

If you are trying to earn a degree for certification in teaching or most master's degrees, it is very, very difficult. Do not expect to find many classes, even though distance education is available. Courses that are technical in nature are very tough to find as well, especially if you are in a remote location. The bandwidth down here in the Balkans is very narrow. To help you realize how slow our technology can be in some locations, try to picture an elephant going through a straw. You will be able to access your military correspondence and SMARTFORCE classes via the web, but the going can be slow and sometimes not available.

You should be able to take face-to-face classes most anywhere and of course, distance education is available. Just try to realize that you will not be able to complete as many courses as you like, depending on where you are.

I'm not trying to discourage you in your pursuit of higher education. You will find many classes available that are offered from a variety of colleges, but some of you may struggle to complete your degrees outside the U.S.

Mary Anne Hamel
Education Services Specialist
Camp McGovern



Army Personnel Test (APT) Update

Army Personnel tests are used to accomplish many tasks. They are used to select applicants for entry into the service, appointment as commissioned or warrant officers, and initial or subsequent classification of enlisted personnel. Popular tests range from the Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test (AFAST), Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT), Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB), and Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).

The Army Education Center, through the proper chain of command, has the responsibility to provide personnel and facilities to administer Army Personnel tests. The Test Control Officer must ensure the personnel tests are properly administered, safeguarded and test results are correctly scored.

Under AR 611-5 and the Test Control Officer Handbook, we receive our guidance to administer your requested initial test or retest. Unless precluded by policy, soldiers may retake any Army Personnel Test that resulted in an unsatisfactory score. The retest cannot be taken until six months has passed from the previous test date. Policy does state -- once you receive a qualifying score on a DLAB or AFAST you cannot retake the test. As a general rule you can only take an Army Personnel test three times in your Army career. This would include the initial test and two retests. However this policy is not applicable to the DLPT which must be taken annually to remain qualified in a specific language.

You will need a DA form 4187 to request an examination for all Army Personnel tests. Sample forms are available at the Education Center. The form will be processed through your S1 or personnel representative to verify the six months have passed since your previous test date. The document is then forwarded to your commander for approval. Completed

DA 4187's will then be taken to the Education Center to make an examination appointment.

KEY POINTS:

- All Army Personnel tests require an approved DA Form 4187.
- Must wait six months between retests.
- Schedule test appointment with Education Center.
- Requests for retests to invalidate test results because of extenuating circumstances, and requests for retesting within the six-month window, as an Exception to Policy (ETP) must be forwarded to the APT Program Office with justification. The APT Program Manager at PERSCOM must approve requests for an ETP **BEFORE** a soldier is scheduled for a retest. The request should include documented reasons to expect that the retest will result in significantly improved scores.

For GT improvement, the Education Center provides classes called Basic Skills Education Program, practice GT exams, and study material for individual use in our Multi-use Learning Facility Room 141 P4300. Jefferson Community College also offers college level courses to improve Math and English skills here on Fort Drum. For further information please visit an education counselor at your earliest convenience.

Les Barbour
APT Test Control Officer



DANTES Update

Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Exams

The Automotive Service Excellence Examinations will be administered at the DANTES Test Center, Room 138 on May 6, 8, and 13, 2003. ASE does not allow standbys. Eligible soldiers and warrant officers who did not register in time, but still wish to take ASE examinations will have another chance in November, 2003. Be sure to come to the Education Center at least two months in advance to order the examination.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) paper-based testing program will continue at DANTES Test Centers throughout 2002.

However, some of the examinations will be removed from the inventory. If you need credit-by-exam in any of the following areas, you must take the actual examination no later than June 30, 2003:

- CLEP General Biology
- CLEP General Chemistry
- CLEP General Humanities
- CLEP College Level German
- CLEP Western Civilization I
- CLEP Western Civilization II

The staff at Multi-use Learning Facility, Room 141, will help you find study materials and schedule a practice exam. Examinations are free to active duty military personnel.

DANTES new website

Are you thinking about becoming a teacher? Wanting to become certified before ETS or retirement in a field for which you already have training and experience? Looking for scholarship information? Trying to find the address of an Army Education Center that you left behind when you PCSed? The answers to these questions and more can be found at the new Defense Activities for Non-

traditional Education Support (DANTES) website at www.dantes.doded.mil. The website links to DANTES programs and services available.

National Certification Examinations

The DANTES website link to "Certification Exams" provides a list of National Certification examinations that are administered at DANTES Test Centers. If you are interested in taking a national certification examination, it is helpful if you go to the website first to see if you are qualified, before coming to see an education counselor. If you think you meet the requirements, download the information about the examination and bring it to the Education Center. If you need help to download the material, go to the Multi-use Learning Facility (MLF) Room 141. Be aware that National Certification Examinations are not for everyone. Specialized training and experience are usually required first.

Troops to Teachers

The DANTES website also links to the Troops to Teachers (TTT) homepage, or you can go directly to the TTT website at www.proudtoserveagain.com for eligibility information. The TTT website provides valuable information, not just for soldiers, but for educators, students, and parents as well, on the following topics: job openings including state websites for teaching vacancies; mentor connections - a network of TTT participants working as teachers, who volunteer to answer basic questions about becoming a teacher, state teacher certification requirements, school information - including public, private, and charter schools, and tips on how to prepare children for school.

Marian Weisz
DANTES Test Control Officer

Helpful Websites

DANTES Homepage

www.dantes.doded.mil

TTT Homepage

www.proudtoserveagain.com

Financial Aid Websites

www.collegeboard.org

www.ed.gov

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

www.legion.org



Financial Aid Fair III

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THE THIRD ANNUAL FINANCIAL AID FAIR WILL BE COMING TO THE ARMY EDUCATION CENTER MAY 8th

Service members, spouses, familymembers, DOD civilians and retired Army personnel are invited to the Fort Drum Financial Aid Fair on May 8, 2003 from 1100 1500 at the Robert C. McEwen Library and Education Center Complex, 4300 Camp Hale Road. Representatives from the following agencies will be available to answer your questions: Green to Gold, AMEDD, PA Program, SUNY Colleges, Area Banks and Credit Unions, Veteran's Education Benefit Program, Private Scholarship Providers and Education Center Staff.

Gathering information pertaining to higher education and funding such an endeavor can be overwhelming, especially for spouses and familymembers. Although the military cannot provide Tuition Assistance or VA benefits to fund a familymembers's college education, there are many other funding sources available for all prospective students, pursuing higher education. The Federal Government is the largest supplier of all student aid or

financial assistance offering Grants, Loans and Work-Study programs. Some of the largest and most popular federal student aid programs are: Federal Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, PLUS Loans, Consolidation Loans, FSEOG, Federal Perkins Loans and Work-Study Loans. To learn more about federal financial aid programs, contact the U.S. Department of Education, 800-4FED-AID (800-433-3243).

Some of the popular financial assistance websites include:

www.collegeboard.org

www.ed.gov

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

www.legion.org

The 2003 Scholarships for Military Children Program opened November 1. These \$1500 scholarship sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency and administered by the Fisher House Foundation. Factors looked at include grades, community involvement, activities and an essay. The Program has awarded 920 scholarships and nearly \$1.5 million in its first two years. Applications can be downloaded for the 2003 program at www.commissaries.com or www.fisherhouse.org.

The program is open to dependent unmarried children

under the age of 23 of active duty personnel, reserve, Guard and retired military. Applicants should ensure they're currently enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. Although the filing deadline has passed, this is an annual program.

Take advantage of our extensive list of scholarships available for you, the military community. Find a scholarship with Military.com Scholarship Search today!

www.military.com/Careers/Education/ScholarshipSearch

Another way to help finance your college years is through an Army ROTC scholarship, which awards hundreds of scholarships, available at over 600 schools. ROTC scholarships help pay for tuition and required fees. They are based on academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and personal interviews. If you have questions on this program consult the web page at www-rotc.monroe.army.mil/scholarships.

Additionally, spouses and familymembers eighteen years and older are eligible to participate in a broad range of programs available at the installation, to include test preparation at the Army Education Center's Multi-Use Learning Facility (one of your free education benefits), testing for college credits. You may pick up individual copies



SCOREBOARD FY 03

Students Briefed

1308

Students Counseled

1078

Student Participation Agreements Signed

1000

of study guides. These CLEP exams, credit-by-examination, allow an individual to save time, save money, make college more interesting by moving right into advanced courses, and demonstrate what you have mastered.

Plan to attend the Financial Aid Fair where you will be provided with up-to-date information presented by representatives from the following organizations: Green to Gold, AMEDD, and PA programs, SUNY Colleges, area banks and credit union, Veteran's Education Benefit Program, Private scholarship providers and Education Center Staff. Don't let money slip through your fingers!

Diane Smith
Army Guidance Counselor

Financial Aid Fair Attendees

- Upstate Federal Credit Union
- Roberts Stackel CPA
- Key Bank
- AmeriCU Credit Union
- Consumer Credit Counseling
- US Department of Veteran's Affairs
- US Army ROTC
- Association of the United States Army
- SUNY Jefferson Community College
- SUNY Canton
- SUNY Oswego
- SUNY Empire State College
- SUNY Plattsburgh
- SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry
- Capella University
- Army Spouses Clubs
- Army Education Center

FAFSA and VA Workshops during the Financial Aid Fair

Please bring personal and financial documentation - W-2s, Drivers License, Tax Returns

FAFSA -1300-1400
VA -1400-1500



SUNY Empire State College to Expand Army's virtual University Degree Offerings

Empire State College of the State University of New York is slated to introduce six new on-line degree programs beginning in May as part of the eArmyU program. Through its Center for Distance Learning (CDL), Empire State currently offers four eArmyU degree programs, including bachelor's degrees in business, health and human services, human services and mental health administration. With the recent additions, the college will also offer soldiers an opportunity to pursue bachelor's degrees in business management, human resource management and criminal justice administration, as well as associate degrees in communication, historical studies and economics. More information on the college's eArmyU program can be accessed through www.esc.edu/army, as well as the eArmyU web site at www.earmyu.com

Jefferson Community College Approved as eArmyU Education Provider

JCC was officially approved as an eArmyU education provider in December of 2002. The College will begin offering online courses to eArmyU soldiers-students this summer. Currently, soldiers-students are applying to JCC and registering for Term 2 (summer) course work. Below is a listing of courses offered exclusively to eArmyU soldier-students this summer:

- BUS 160 SL8 Excel 2002Spreadsheets
- ECO 101 SL8 Macroeconomics
- ENG 101 SL8 Composition II
- HIS 111 SL8 History of West. Civ I
- HIS 150 SL8 American History to 1865
- MTH 129 SL8 Survey of Mathematics
- SOC 144 SL8 Intro to Sociology

There will also be several courses available to "non" eArmyU students this summer. Please contact the Office of Continuing Education at 315 786-2233 to register for online or on-campus course work this summer.

Jefferson Community College is excited about eArmyU and encourages feedback from soldier-students about the service we provide. For more information, visit our eArmyU website at www.sunyjefferson.edu/earmyu or contact Don Johnson at the Army Education Center (315)773-4535.

Did you Know?

Most colleges are currently offering pre-registration for fall with delayed payment.

JCC's fall pre-registration with no payment runs from April 14 through July 8. After that date, a student must pay at time of registration.

SUNY Potsdam's registration begins April 24 for graduate students and seniors; April 25 juniors, April 28 sophomores, April 29 & 30 and May 1 for freshmen. Non-matriculated students can register beginning Aug. 18. Call 1 800 458 1142 for more information.

SUNY Oswego advanced registration for

matriculated students begins March 31 and continues through June 27. For non-matriculated students, registration begins April 28.

Summer 2003 registration in full swing

Registration for summer 2003 classes is happening now. Many classes are already full. The longer you wait to sign up, the less chance you have of getting the class you want or the time frame convenient to you. If you plan to take a summer class, don't delay any longer. The sooner you sign up the more choice you have

"Get a Brand Name Degree at a Generic Price" (Excerpt from MSN Money)

For many college-bound students and their families, there's nothing quite so wrenching as tallying up numbers like these:

Tuition & fees: \$26,019
Room & board \$8, 250
Books & supplies \$800
Personal expenses: \$2,290
Total: \$37,359

These estimates for one year at Harvard, supplied by the 2002 College Board, are the kinds of numbers some two million prospective college students stare at each year. And...they aren't out of line with other prestigious colleges. But...impressive savings can be realized through the concept of credit transferring where credits from a less expensive college are applied toward a degree from a more prestigious school. By attending the lesser expensive college for two years then transferring to the more prestigious school,

you will graduate with the pricey, big name diplomas the same as those who attended the full four years and paid four years of the pricey tuition compared to your paying for only two pricey years. A word of caution however:

- Get all the facts now in writing.
- Stick to the basics
- Investigate school to school relationships
- Find out if transfer is possible at all.

Jefferson Community College is just such an inexpensive alternative, as are all our SUNY Colleges. Take advantage of the excellent educational opportunities while here at Fort Drum. Later if you have the opportunity to transfer to one of the more prestigious universities, your pocketbook will thank you.

For more information on what is offered locally, contact the SUNY Colleges office at (315) 773-9007.

Compiled by the SUNY Colleges of the North Country Staff



Jefferson Community College

Semester dates 6/2-7/22/03

BUS 124	861	Marketing 1	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
CIS 110	861	Intro to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3sh
CRJ 110	861	Criminal Evidence	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
ENG 100	861	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
ENG 101	861	Composition 2	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
ENG 218	861	Technical Writing	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
PSY 220	861	Child & Adolescent Psych	M/W	1800-2100	3sh
CIS 119	861	Web Page Design	T/Th	1800-2100	3sh
BUS 133	861	Small Business Mgmt	T/Th	1800-2100	3sh
GEO 102	861	Planet Earth	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
HIS 120	861	U.S./Vietnam History	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
MTH 129	861	Survey of Math	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
POL 121	861	Intro to American Govt	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
SOC 144	861	Intro to Sociology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3sh
BUS 112	801	Intro to Business	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3sh
PSY 133	801	Intro to Psychology	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3sh

SUNY Plattsburgh

NUR 427	Research in Nursing (6-27-7/3)	M/W	1600-2005	JCC
ANT 362	Global Issues			SLN
LIB 101	Intro to Library/Inform Resources			SLN
PED 271	Wellness & Fitness			SLN
PED 323	Excercise Program Design			SLN
CSC 121	Concepts of Computing			SLN

Note: Plattsburgh courses are in support of the Telenursing program. Please call 1-800-787-8773 for registration information and/or materials.

SUNY Oswego

Various session dates 5/27-8/15/03

CPS 540	760	Psych. Founds of Dev	M/W	1600-1915	JCC
CPS 515	800	Field Study in Counseling	M	1800-2000	JCC
CPS 516	800	Fld Exp. In Alcohol Couns II	M	1800-2000	JCC
CPS 541	560	Intro to Group Process	T/Th	1600-1815	JCC
PBJ 300	DIS	Violence in Workplace			SLN
PBJ 350	DIS	Pro Seminar: Pub Just-Writing			SLN
PBJ 360	DIS	Discrimination in Workplace			SLN
PBJ 397	DIS	Practicum in Pub Just			SLN

SUNY Empire State College

Class dates 5/28-7/23/03

MTH 210	Probability and Statistics	W	1800-2100	4sh	Watertown
(For non-Math Majors - MS Excel knowledge required)					

Class dates 5/12-7/7/03

HUM 217	Human Development	Tu	1200-1400	4sh	FTD
PSY 216	Intro. To Psychology	M	1200-1400	4sh	FTD

SUNY Potsdam

Various session dates 5/20-8/9/03

GRED 507	Dev. Positive Self Concept	M-Th	0900-1930	Calcium
GRED 507	Dev. Positive Self Concept	M-F	0900-1630	Calcium
GRED 510	Museums& Local Sites	M/W	0900-1300	JCC
GRED 511	Humanistic Education	M-F	0900-1630	Calcium
GRED 530	Clstrm. Mgmt. & Discipline	F/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	JCC
GRED 548	Child Lit. In Teaching Rdg.	M/W	1630-2030	Sherman
GRED 600	Phil. Foundation of Educ	M/W	1630-2030	JCC
GRED 607	Founds. of Education(B-6th)	F/Sa	1600-2100	JCC
GRED 641	Inform Clstrm Rdng Assess	T/Th	1630-2030	N. Elem
GRDG 600	Foundations of Literacy	T/Th	1630-2030	Sherman
IT 518	Microcomp in Elem. Educ	T/Th	0900-1300	TBA